GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1024
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2006
PENSION TO FREEDOM FIGHTER
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The total number of freedom fighters, their widows and other eligible dependents who are beneficiaries of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme separately as on date, State-wise;

(b) Whether the Government has received any complaints of `Fake Freedom Fighters` claiming pension and some of the genuine freedom fighters are running from pillar to post to get their pensions and are starving for livelihood;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) Whether the Government has adopted any mechanism to check the genuineness of the case to get rid from these fake freedom fighters and to protect the genuine cases;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a): Since the inception of the Scheme in 1972, pension has been sanctioned to about 1,69,964 freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 31.10.2006. A statement indicating the State-wise details is annexed. This Ministry does not have the exact number of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents presently living and drawing pension.

(b) & (c): Receipt of complaints/information from various sources alleging bogus/fraudulent

pensions is a continuous process. Each such matter is examined with reference to the applicable provisions of the Central Scheme, in consultation with the concerned State Government. On examination, wherever it is established that the claim meets the eligibility criteria and the evidentiary requirements of the Central Scheme, the pension is sanctioned, after following due process. Such matters are dealt with individually.

(d), (e) & (f): Persons who consider themselves eligible for Samman pension under the `Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980` are required to apply on prescribed application forms, duly filled, and supported by documentary evidence of claim of suffering, jail certificate, arrest warrant, detention order etc. routed through the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration. The claims of Central Samman pension can be considered only when these are duly verified and reported by the concerned State Government / Union Territory Administration in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. The Central Government takes its decision on the basis of all prescribed eligibility criteria and evidentiary requirements of the Scheme.